

## OFF

OFFENCE. *n. f.* [*offense*, Fr. *offensa*, from *offendo*, Lat.]

1. Crime; act of wickedness.  
Thither with speed their hasty course they ply'd,  
Where Christ the Lord for our offences dy'd. *Fairfax.*  
Thou hast stol'n that, which after some few hours  
Were thine without offence. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*
  2. A transgression.  
If, by the law of nature, every man hath not a power to  
punish offences against it, I see not how the magistrates of any  
community can punish an alien of another country. *Locke.*
  3. Injury.  
I have given my opinion against the authority of two great  
men, but I hope without offence to their memories; for I  
loved them living, and reverence them dead. *Dryden.*
  4. Displeasure given; cause of disgust; scandal.  
Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not  
blamed. *2 Cor. vi. 3.*  
He remembered the injury of the children of Beas, who  
had been a fiare and an offence unto the people. *1 Mac. iv.*  
The pleasures of the touch are greater than those of the  
other senses; as in warming upon cold, or refrigeration upon  
heat: for as the pains of the touch are greater than the of-  
fences of other senses, so likewise are the pleasures. *Bacon.*
  5. Anger; displeasure conceived.  
Earnest in every present humour, and making himself brave  
in his liking, he was content to give them just cause of of-  
fence when they had power to make just revenge. *Sidney.*
  6. Attack; act of the assailant.  
Courtesy that seemed incorporated in his heart, would not  
be perjured to offer any offence, but only to stand upon the  
best defensive guard. *Sidney.*
- OFFENSIVE. *adj.* [*offense* and *full*.] Injurious; giving dis-  
pleasure.  
It seems your most offenceful act  
Was mutually committed. *Shaksp. Measure for Measure.*
- OFFENSIVENESS. *n. f.* [*from offense*.] Unoffending; innocent.  
You are but now cast in his mood, a punishment more in  
policy than in malice; even so as one would beat his offence-  
less dog to afflict an imperious lion. *Shaksp. Othello.*
- TO OFFEND. *v. a.* [*offendo*, Latin.]
1. To make angry.  
If much you note him  
You shall offend him, and extend his passion,  
Feed and regard him not. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
Three sorts of men my soul hateth, and I am greatly of-  
fended at their life. *Beatus xxv. 2.*  
The emperor himself came running to the place in his ar-  
mour, severely reproving them of cowardice who had for-  
faken the place, and grievously offended with them who had  
kept such negligent watch. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*
  2. To fail; to attack.  
He was fain to defend himself, and withal so to offend him,  
that by an unlucky blow the poor Philoxenus fell dead at his  
feet. *Sidney.*
  3. To transgress; to violate.  
To injure.  
Cheaply you sin, and punish crimes with ease,  
Not as th' offended, but th' offenders please. *Dryden.*
  4. To be criminal; to transgress the law.  
This man that of earthly matter maketh graven images,  
knoweth himself to offend above all others. *Wisd. xiv. 13.*  
Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in  
one point, he is guilty of all. *James ii. 10.*
  5. To cause anger.  
I shall offend, either to detain or give it. *Shaksp. Lear.*
  6. To commit transgression.  
Our language is extremely imperfect, and in many in-  
stances it offends against every part of grammar. *Swift.*
- OFFENDER. *n. f.* [*from offend*.]
1. A criminal; one who has committed a crime; a transgressor;  
a guilty person.  
All that watch for iniquity are cut off, that make a man  
an offender for a word. *Is. xxix. 21.*  
So like a fly the poor offender dies;  
But like the wasp, the rich escapes and flies. *Denham.*  
How shall I lose the sin, yet keep the sense,  
And love th' offender, yet detest th' offence?  
The conscience of the offender shall be sharper than an  
avenger's sword. *Clarissa.*
  2. One who has done an injury.  
All vengeance comes too short,  
Which can pursue th' offender. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
- OFFENDRESS. *n. f.* [*from offender*.] A woman that offends.  
Virginity murders itself, and should be buried in highways  
out of all sanctified limits, as a desperate offendress against na-  
ture. *Shaksp. All's well that ends well.*
- OFFENSIVE. *adj.* [*offensif*, Fr. from *offensus*, Lat.]
1. Causing anger; displeasing; disgusting.  
Since no man can do ill with a good conscience, the con-  
solation which we herein seem to find is but a meer deceitful

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- pleasing of ourselves in error, which at the length must needs  
turn to our greater grief, if that which we do to please God  
most, be for the manifold defects thereof offensive unto him.  
*Hooker, b. v. f. 4.*
- It shall suffice, to touch such customs of the Irish as seem  
offensive and repugnant to the good government of the realm.  
*Spenser on Ireland.*
2. Causing pain; injurious.  
It is an excellent opener for the liver, but offensive to the  
stomach. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
Some particular acrimony in the stomach sometimes makes  
it offensive, and which custom at last will overcome. *Arbut.*
  3. Assailant; not defensive.  
He recounted the benefits and favours that he had done  
him, in provoking a mighty and opulent king by an offensive  
war in his quarrel. *Bacon.*  
We enquire concerning the advantages and disadvantages  
betwixt those military offensive engines used among the an-  
cients, and those of these latter ages. *Wilkins.*
- OFFENSIVELY. *adv.* [*from offensive*.]
1. Mischievously; injuriously.  
In the least thing done offensively against the good of men,  
whose benefit we ought to seek for as our own, we plainly  
shew that we do not acknowledge God to be such as indeed  
he is. *Hooker, b. v. f. 2.*
  2. So as to cause uneasiness or displeasure.  
A lady had her sight disordered, so that the images in her  
hangings did appear to her, if the room were not extraordi-  
narily darkened, embellished with several offensively vivid co-  
lours. *Boyle on Colours.*
  3. By way of attack; not defensively.
- OFFENSIVENESS. *n. f.* [*from offensive*.]
1. Injuriousness; mischief.
  2. Cause of disgust.  
The muscles of the body, being preserved sound and lim-  
ber upon the bones, all the motions of the parts might be  
explicated with the greatest ease and without any offensiveness.  
*Grew's Myology.*
- TO OFFER. *v. a.* [*offero*, Lat. *offerre*, Fr.]
1. To present to any one; to exhibit any thing so as that it may  
be taken or received.  
The heathen women under the Mogul, offer themselves  
to the flames at the death of their husbands. *Collin.*  
Some ideas forwardly offer themselves to all mens under-  
standings; some sort of truths result from any idea, as from  
the mind puts them into propositions. *Locke.*  
Servants placing happiness in strong drink, make court to  
my young master, by offering him that which they love. *Locke.*
  2. To sacrifice; to immolate; to present as an act of worship.  
They offered unto the Lord of the spoil which they had  
brought, seven hundred oxen. *2 Chron. xv. 11.*  
He shall offer of it all the fat thereof. *Lev. vii. 3.*  
An holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices. *1 Pet. ii. 5.*  
Whole herds of offer'd bulls about the fire,  
And bristled boars and woolly sheep expire. *Dryden.*  
When a man is called upon to offer up himself to his con-  
science, and to resign to justice and truth, he should be so  
far from avoiding the lists, that he should rather enter with  
inclination, and thank God for the honour. *Collin.*
  3. To bid, as a price or reward.  
Nor shouldst thou offer all thy little store,  
Will rich Iolas yield, but offer more. *Dryden.*
  4. To attempt; to commence.  
Lyimachus armed about three thousand men, and began  
first to offer violence. *2 Mac. iv. 40.*
  5. To propose.  
In all that great extent wherein the mind wanders in re-  
mote speculations, it stirs not one jot beyond those ideas  
which sense or reflection have offered for its contemplation.  
*Locke.*
- Our author offers no reason.
- TO OFFER. *v. n.*
1. To be present; to be at hand; to present itself.  
No thought can imagine a greater heart to see and con-  
tend danger, where danger would offer to make any wrong-  
ful threatening upon him. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Th' occasion offers, and the youth complies. *Dryden.*
  2. To make an attempt.  
We came close to the shore, and offered to land. *Bacon.*  
One offers, and in offering makes a stay;  
Another forward sets, and doth no more. *Dan. Civ. War.*  
I would treat the pope and his cardinals roughly, if they  
offered to see my wife without my leave. *Dryden.*
  3. With at.  
I will not offer at that I cannot master.  
I hope they will take it well that I should offer at a new  
thing, and could forbear presuming to meddle where any of  
the learned pens have ever touched before. *Gravatt.*  
Write down and make signs to him to pronounce them,  
and guide him by shewing him by the motion of your own  
lips. *Jos.*

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- lips to offer at one of those letters; which being the easiest,  
he will stumble upon one of them. *Holder.*  
The masquerade succeeded so well with him, that he would  
be offering at the shepherd's voice and call too. *L'Estrange.*  
It contains the grounds of his doctrine, and offers at some-  
what towards the disproof of mine. *Atterbury.*  
Without offering at any other remedy, we hastily engaged  
in a war, which hath cost us sixty millions. *Swift.*
- OFFER. *n. f.* [*offre*, Fr. from the verb.]
1. Proposal of advantage to another.  
Some nymphs there are, too conscious of their face;  
These swell their prospects, and exalt their pride,  
When offers are disdain'd, and love deny'd. *Pope.*
  2. First advance.  
Force compels this offer,  
And it proceeds from policy, not love. —  
— Mowbray, you overween to take it so:  
This offer comes from mercy, not from fear. *Shaksp.*  
What wouldst beg, Laertes,  
That shall not be my offer, not thy asking? *Shaksp.*
  3. Proposal made.  
Th' offers he doth make,  
Were not for him to give, nor them to take. *Daniel.*  
I enjoined all the ladies to tell the company, in case they  
had been in the siege and had the same offer made them as  
the good women of that place, what every one of them  
would have brought off with her, and have thought most  
worth the saving. *Addison's Spectator.*  
It carries too great an imputation of ignorance, or folly,  
to quit and renounce former tenets upon the offer of an ar-  
gument which cannot immediately be answered. *Locke.*
  4. Price bid; act of bidding a price.  
When stock is high, they come between,  
Making by second hand their offers;  
Then cunningly retire unseen,  
With each a million in his coffers. *Swift.*
  5. Attempt; endeavour.  
Many motions, though they be unprofitable to expel that  
which hurteth, yet they are offers of nature, and cause mo-  
tions by consent; as in groaning, or crying upon pain. *Bacon.*  
It is in the power of every one to make some essay, some  
offer and attempt, so as to shew that the heart is not idle or  
inensible, but that it is full and big, and knows itself to be  
so, though it wants strength to bring forth. *South's Sermon.*  
One sees in it a kind of offer at modern architecture, but  
at the same time that the architect has shewn his dislike of  
the gothic manner, one may see that they were not arrived  
at the knowledge of the true way. *Addison on Italy.*
  6. Something given by way of acknowledgment.  
Fair streams that do vouchsafe in your clearness to repre-  
sent unto me my blubber'd face, let the tribute offer of my  
tears procure you stay a while with me, that I may begin  
yet at last to find something that pities me. *Sidney, b. ii.*
- OFFERER. *n. f.* [*from offer*.]
1. One who makes an offer.
  2. One who sacrifices, or dedicates in worship.  
If the mind of the offerer be good, this is the only thing  
God respecteth. *Hooker, b. v. f. 34.*  
When he commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the place  
of the offering was not left undetermined, and to the offerer's  
discretion. *South's Sermons.*
- OFFERING. *n. f.* [*from offer*.] A sacrifice; any thing immo-  
lated, or offered in worship.
1. Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,  
They could not find a heart within the beast. *Shaksp.*  
They are polluted offerings, more abhor'd  
Than spotted livers in the sacrifice. *Shaksp.*  
When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall  
see his feed. *Is. liii. 10.*
  2. The gloomy god  
Stood mute with awe, to see the golden rod;  
Admir'd the destin'd offering to his queens,  
A venerable gift so rarely seen. *Dryden.*  
What nations now to Juno's pow'r will pray,  
Or offerings on my slighted altars lay?  
I'll favour her,  
That my awaken'd soul may take her flight,  
Renew'd in all her strength, and fresh with life,  
An offering fit for heaven. *Addison's Cato.*
- OFFERTORY. *n. f.* [*offertoire*, Fr.] The thing offered; the  
act of offering.  
He went into St. Paul's church, where he made offertory  
of his standards, and had orisons and Te Deum sung. *Bacon.*
- OFFERTURE. *n. f.* [*from offer*.] Offer; proposal of kindness.  
A word not in use.
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- Methought this staff, mine office-badge in courts,  
Was broke in twain. *Shaksp. Henry VI. p. ii.*  
The infolence of office. *Shaksp.*
2. Agency; peculiar use.  
All things that you should use to do me wrong,  
Deny their office. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
In this experiment the several intervals of the teeth of the  
comb do the office of so many prisms, every interval producing  
the phenomenon of one prism. *Newton, Opt.*
  3. Business; particular employment.  
The sun was sunk, and after him the star  
Of Hesperus, whose office is to bring  
Twilight upon the earth. *Milt. Par. Lost, b. ix.*
  4. Act of good or ill voluntarily tendered.  
Wolves and bears  
Casting their savageness aside, have done  
Like offices of pity. *Shaksp. Winter's Tale.*  
Mrs. Ford, I see you are obsequious in your love, and I  
profess requital to a hair's breadth; not only in the simple  
office of love, but in all the accompaniment, complement, and  
ceremony of it. *Shaksp. Merry W. of Windsor.*  
I would I could do a good office between you. *Shaksp.*  
The wolf took this occasion to do the fox a good office. *L'Estrange.*
- You who your pious offices employ  
To save the reliques of abandon'd Troy: *Dryd. Virg.*
5. Act of worship.  
This gate  
Instructs you how to adore the heavens, and bows you  
To morning's holy office. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*
  6. Formulary of devotions.  
Whoever hath children or servants; let him take care  
that they say their prayers before they begin their work: the  
Lord's prayer, the ten commandments, and the creed, is a  
very good office for them, if they are not fitted for more regu-  
lar offices. *Taylor's Devotion.*
  7. Rooms in a house appropriated to particular business.  
What do we but draw anew the model  
In fewer offices? at least desist  
To build at all. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.*  
Let offices stand at distance, with some low galleries to pass  
from them to the palace itself. *Bacon.*
  8. Place where business is transacted. [*Officina*, Lat.]  
What shall good old York see there,  
But empty lodgings and unfurnish'd walls,  
Unpeopled offices, untrod stones? *Shaksp. Rich. II.*  
Empson and Dudley, though they could not but hear of these  
scruples in the king's conscience, yet as if the king's soul  
and his money were in several offices, that the one was not  
to intermeddle with the other, went on with as great rage as  
ever. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
- TO OFFICE. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To perform; to dis-  
charge; to do.  
I will be gone, altho'  
The air of Paradise did fan the house,  
And angels offic'd all. *Shaksp. All's well that ends well.*
- OFFICER. *n. f.* [*officier*, French.]
1. A man employed by the publick.  
'Tis an office of great worth,  
And you an officer fit for the place. *Shaksp.*  
Submit you to the people's voices,  
Allow their officers, and be content  
To suffer lawful censure. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*  
The next morning there came to us the same officer that  
came to us at first to conduct us to the stranger's house. *Bac.*  
If it should fall into the French hands, all the princes  
would return to be the several officers of his court. *Temple.*  
As a magistrate or great officer he locks himself up from  
all approaches. *South's Sermons.*  
Birds of prey are an emblem of rapacious officers. A su-  
perior power takes away by violence from them, that which  
by violence they took away from others. *L'Estrange.*
  2. A commander in the army.  
If he did not nimble ply the spade,  
His surly officer ne'er fail'd to crack  
His knotty cudgel on his tougher back. *Dryden.*  
I summon'd all my officers in haste,  
All came resolv'd to die in my defence. *Dryden.*  
The bad disposition he made in landing his men, shews  
him not only to be much inferior to Pompey as a sea officer,  
but to have had little or no skill in that element. *Arb.*
  3. One who has the power of apprehending criminals.  
The thieves are posselt with fear  
So strongly, that they dare not meet each other;  
Each takes his fellow for an officer. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*  
We charge you  
To go with us unto the officers. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
- OFFICERED. *adj.* [*from officer*.] Commanded; supplied with  
commanders.  
What could we expect from an army officered by Irish pa-  
pists and outlaws. *Addison's Freeholder.*
- OFFICIAL.